

Fire safety tips to help keep you and your family safe.

Have an Escape plan with a meeting place.

You need to have an escape plan in case of fire. You should practice this with your family and have a designated spot to meet once you get out.

Have two ways out.

You should have two ways out of in case one way of egress is blocked by fire. Don't forget about using windows as a way to get out.

Test your smoke alarms.

Your smoke alarms should be tested monthly, and the battery replaced twice a year. If your detectors are over 10 years old, you need new ones. Smoke detectors don't last forever. Your chances of escaping a fire are cut in half if your smoke alarm isn't working. Most people don't realize that your sense of smell "goes to sleep" when you are sleeping, and you will never smell the smoke.

Keep an eye on smokers.

The leading cause of fatal fires is careless smoking. Make sure all smoking materials are fully extinguished before discarding in a trash can. Never smoke in bed!

Stop, Drop, and Roll

If your clothes catch fire, stop, drop, and roll. Make sure to cover your face with your hands.

Get out and stay out!

Once you are out of a burning building, never go back in for anything. It's just not worth it. There are many instances where someone went back into a burning house or building to retrieve something, (money, pets, material things, people) and they didn't make it out alive.

Matches and lighters are tools for adults and not toys.

If children find matches or lighters, they should leave them alone and tell an adult, who will in turn pick them up and put them away out of reach.

Keep watch over what you are cooking.

Cooking is the leading cause of fires and injuries. Do not leave a stove unattended when you are cooking. An easy way to put out a grease fire is to turn the burner off and place a lid on the pan.

Crawl low under smoke.

The toxic gases in smoke rise to the ceiling. The cooler, cleaner air will be near the floor. The floor temperature, in a fire, might be 100 degrees F, and at the ceiling it could be over 1000 degrees F (enough to instantly knock you unconscious if you stood up)!

Don't hide from firefighters.

Children should be taught that, even though fire is scary, (firefighters can be scary to children in all of their gear as well) children should never hide from firefighters. The firefighters are there to rescue them.

Keep combustibles far enough away from heat sources.

Plain and simple. Things that get hot, have a potential to start a fire. Keep everything far enough away from heat sources such as candles, fire places, space heaters, stoves, etc.